



Administrative Office of Courts

ACDD, MIS, Juvenile, & Traffic Divisions

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Welcome

In this edition, we will familiarize you with some of the technologies used to streamline the ticketing processing. We work to develop technologies that are useful and assist you in your daily operations. There are several special announcements, including retirements and reassignments. Also, we have provided you with an up-to-date flow chart of AOC's Division Structure.

Questions or comments? Please email us at newsletter@alacourt.gov.

Revolutionizing the traffic ticketing process

When Alabama's State Troopers began issuing electronic traffic citations in 2004, the traffic ticketing process immediately became more efficient for Troopers. The ease of the process has allowed Troopers to issue over 120,000 e-citations to date. Since the commencement of the program, however, further modifications in the law and improvements with e-citation technology has made the process even more efficient for all parties and agencies involved in the ticketing process.

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After many years of service to AOC, Jack Doane has taken a new position with ISD, the State's Information Service Division. We wish him the best of luck in his new position.

Special Announcements

Happy Retirement!!

Blount County's Circuit Judge, Robert E. Austin, retired January 16, 2007. Judge Austin graduated under graduate school from The University of South Alabama in 1973. Upon graduating from the University of Alabama law school in 1976, he went to work with Nash & Walker, a firm in Oneonta. He, and now Blount County District Judge, John Dobson opened their own firm in 1980. He was elected as District Judge in 1982 and then as Circuit Judge in 1988, where he has presided 19 years. Robert Austin plans to begin practice again in Oneonta, Austin Law Firm, LLC upon his retirement.

Happy Retirement!!

Judicial assistant to Judge Robert E. Austin, Teresa Kuntz, retired January 2007. Upon graduating from Locust Fork High School in 1977, she went to work with Nash & Walker until 1981. In the fall of 1982 she became the judicial assistant to Judge Carl Dalton Nesmith Sr. until 1988, where she became judicial assistant to Judge Robert E. Austin, and has been until present time. Teresa is married to Gerald Kuntz and they have one daughter, Christina. Teresa plans to just take it easy and enjoy her retirement.

Thank you!

I would like to thank Stephanie Brown, Karen Craymer, and Brandy Cox for their contributions while serving as editors of Technology Update. Good luck in your new positions.

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Newsletter Spotlight

Traffic Ticketing

Special Announcements

Thank you

Traffic Ticketing continued

E-Search

AOC Flow Chart

February Birthdays

Allen Williams	02/10
Timothy Wyatt	02/11
Marshall Overman	02/18
Wally Lowery	02/19
Ashley Swift	02/20
Dean Hartzog	02/20
Erica Coleman	02/27
Joe Bruner	02/27
Keisha Stephens	02/27



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TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

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In the 2006 Regular Legislative Session, the Alabama Legislature enacted the E-citation bill, which revised the traffic code to officially allow the issuance of electronic traffic tickets. Previously, E-citation was operating under pilot project by order of the Alabama Supreme Court. Most notably, the act eliminated the requirement of obtaining the alleged violator's signature in situations where a motorist is ticketed through E-citation. Since July 1, 2006, the effective date of the act, over 81,000 e-tickets have been issued as of the date of this publication.

Additionally, in August 2006, the Alabama Supreme Court approved of amendments to Rule 19 of the Alabama Rules of Judicial Administration. These amendments further facilitate the E-citation process for officers and court personnel. Inclusive in the new amendments is authorization of the use of electronic signatures for the ticket swearing procedure. With the assistance of the University of Alabama CARE Research and Development Laboratory, the Administrative Office of Courts has started implementing an electronic swearing system that allows the officer and the magistrate to complete the oath process. Each participant logs-in to the system by affixing the index finger to a biometric finger scanner. This innovative feature operates to provide security for the e-signature, as the scan of the finger is a unique demarcation that cannot be replicated. The e-swearing system is currently being tested in the Tuscaloosa County District Court and will be expanded to other counties in the near future.



The E-search website is an additional function that Clerk's Offices have been getting used to over the past month and will be discussed further in the following article.

Without the cooperation of the Circuit Clerk's offices and without a well-working partnership with the Department of Public Safety, E-citation would not be as successful as it has been.

E-Search

State Troopers electronically transmit the e-citation to an online repository called E-Search. This website allows clerk's offices to search for tickets within a variety of parameters. Tickets can be viewed, printed, and downloaded directly from this site. It is from this website that the clerk's office can assign a case number to the traffic ticket after the officer has sworn in the ticket. This process saves time for our clerk's offices.



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Flow Chart of the Administrative Office of Courts' Division Structure

You will notice two new divisions were formed, Administrative and Court Services; Family Court and Judicial College returned to separate divisions; and Personnel and MIS were renamed Human Resources and IT, respectively. We appreciate your patience during this transition period.

